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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WALTHAM HOLY CROSS



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ending December 31st, 1968

WALTHAM HOLY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1968

CHAIRMAN:

Councillor: Mrs. M. Bird.

Councillor: Mr. G.J.R. Smart (Deputy)

Councillor: Mr. A.M. Brooker

Councillor: Mr. M. Davies, J.P.

Councillor: Mr. C.E. Hewins.

Councillor: Mrs. J.M. Jupp.

Councillor: Mrs. E.M. Tuck.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL ex officio: Councillor Mr. R.H. Moore, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. H. Franks, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
6 Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
Tel: Waltham Cross 23222

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. P.W. Riley, M.A.P.H.I. (1) (2) (4)

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Mr. J.W. Malton, M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H., M.A.P.H.I. (6)
(To: 14.7.68)
Mr. G. Ashford (1) (2) (To: 2.6.68)
Mr. R.M. Cookson M.A.P.H.I. (6) (From: 9.9.68)

MEAT INSPECTORS

Mr. E. Salway, A.M.R.S.H., M.A.M.I. (3)
Mr. J. Fleming, M.M.I.A., M.A.M.I. (5)
Mr. H. Benyon A.M.R.S.H. (3) (From: 24.6.68)

- (1) Certificate of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board.
- (2) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health of Inspector of Meat & Other Foods.
- (3) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health of Inspector of Meat.
- (4) Certificate of the Royal Society of Health for Smoke Inspection
- (5) Royal Sanitary Association (Scotland) Certificate of Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods.
- (6) Diploma of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board.

CLERK: Miss P.A. Willson.

PART-TIME CLERK: Mrs. E.J. Bird.

RODENT OPERATIVE

Mr. T.S. Driver.



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WALTHAM HOLY CROSS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

This Annual Report is presented to you and distributed in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 1/69 and the Public Health Officers Regulations of 1959.

The health of the district has continued to be satisfactory. The death rate is particularly low, being only 7.1 per 1,000 of the population after adjustment to compare with the national rate of 11.9. The main causes of death were heart diseases and cancer.

Very little infectious disease was notified during the year. Under the new Regulations, Infective Jaundice (Hepatitis) is notifiable, mainly for the purposes of knowing to what extent, if any, this condition is being spread by the use of hypodermic syringes by drug addicts or others. None of the 12 cases notified were attributable to this cause, and in most of them, direct infection by contact with another patient took place.

The number of measles notifications was the lowest ever (7) and it is difficult to escape the conclusion that this was due to the introduction of the new immunisation programme against this disease during the year. It is therefore most unfortunate that the programme has been recently restricted owing to doubts on the safety of some batches of vaccine, and it is hoped that this setback will be only temporary.

During the year a full inspection service of all meat was maintained in accordance with Ministry of Health Regulations. The Council's views on the inadequacy of fees they are permitted to charge for this service have been conveyed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and will be taken into account in any further review which the Minister may decide to undertake.

23 applications for re-housing were referred to me during the year to assess alleged medical grounds for priority consideration. I recommended additional priority for 13 of these. The number of complaints of structural faults and dampness from the Council's new Honey Lane Estate has been disturbing, but in no case was I able to certify that the dwellings were unfit for habitation.

The Essex Executive Council's Joint Consultative (Medical Practices) Committee have decided that two medical practice vacancies should be advertised in Waltham Abbey at the appropriate times, bearing in mind the phasing of the housing development proposed by the Greater London Council.

The Explosives Research and Development Establishment of the Ministry of Technology in Waltham Abbey is authorised to discharge radio-active substances into the main drainage system up to an amount not exceeding two millicuries of activity per week. The director of the establishment reports that no radio-active substances were in fact discharged into the main drainage during the year. On one occasion a few paper tissues contaminated by Carbon 14 were destroyed by burning.

In conclusion, I would again like to record my appreciation to all the staff of the Public Health Department for their continued loyalty and co-operation and in particular to Mr. Riley.

H. FRANKS, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

16.6.69

VITAL STATISTICS - 1968

Estimated Mid-Year Home Population ... 13,140
 Area Comparability Factors ... Births 0.83 Deaths 1.45

	MALES			FEMALES		
	Total	Legit	Illegit	Total	Legit	Illegit
Live Births	126	120	6	127	124	3
Stillbirths	4	4	-	-	-	-
Deaths of infants						
Under 1 year of age	1	1	-	4	4	-
Under 4 weeks of age	1	1	-	3	3	-
Under 1 week of age	1	1	-	1	1	-
Deaths (All Ages)	61	-	-	39	-	-

Live Births	Crude rate per 1,000 home population	19.3
Live Births	Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate	0.95
Stillbirths	Rate per 1,000 total births	16
Deaths of Infants		
Under 1 year of age	Rate per 1,000 live births	20
Perinatal Mortality	Rate per 1,000 total births	23
Deaths (All Ages)	Crude rate per 1,000 home population	7.6
Deaths (All Ages)	Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate	0.93

CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

FOR THE YEAR 1968

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Infective and parasitic Diseases	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	0	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	0	1	1
Leukaemia	1	0	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	12	3	15
Diabetes Mellitus	0	1	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	0	1	1
Anaemias	0	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	0	2	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	22	6	28
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	1	3
Cerebrovascular Disease	6	5	11
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	0	1
Pneumonia	1	5	6
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	0	2
Asthma	0	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	0	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	1	1	2
Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	0	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	0	2
All Other Accidents	1	1	2
	<u>61</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>100</u>
TOTAL	61	39	100

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the Local Authority (See First Page)

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES

A Ministry of Health Laboratory operates at St. Margaret's Hospital Epping. Milk, water and ice cream samples are also examined at the Public Health Laboratories, Chelmsford & Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, and also The Counties Public Health Laboratories, Thresh House, Verulam Street, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

(c) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Transport of the sick and injured and maternity cases is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

In cases of accident or emergency, an ambulance is obtained by dialling 999 on any Waltham Cross telephone. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance to be sent to the place required, or to deliver the message personally to the Fire Station, Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey. Calls of a non-urgent nature are only accepted from responsible persons in the service, e.g. Doctors, Nurses, etc.

(d) HOSPITALS

The hospitals serving the area are administered by the North-East London Regional Hospital Board.

(e) CHILD WELFARE

The Essex County Council (West Essex Area) is the Health Authority for the District. Clinics are held at the following times at "The Cedars", Sewardstone Road, Waltham Abbey.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC : Every Tuesday & Friday at 2.00 p.m.
1st and 3rd Wednesday at 2.00 p.m.

SCHOOL CHILDREN : 2nd and 4th Monday in each month at
(Minor Ailments) 10.00 a.m.

<u>ANTE-NATAL CLINIC</u>	: Every Monday at 2.00 p.m.
<u>WOMEN'S WELFARE</u>	: 1st Monday, By appointment only
<u>RELAXATION CLASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS</u> (By appointment only)	: Every Thursday afternoon
<u>SPEECH THERAPIST</u>	: By appointment only
<u>HEALTH VISITOR'S CENTRE AT THE</u> <u>CLUB HOUSE, WOODBINE CLOSE</u> <u>CARAVAN SITE, WALTHAM ABBEY.</u>	: 2nd Wednesday at 2.00 p.m.

(f) SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The Education Authority is the Essex County Council. School nurses inspect the children regularly, and there is a medical inspection at each school not less than once per year. Advice and treatment are provided at The Cedars, at the appropriate sessions as listed above.

(g) TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE

Chest Clinic at Honey Lane Hospital, Waltham Abbey, every Monday at 9.00 a.m. and on Thursdays at 2.00 p.m. by appointment for new patients. During the year the Care Association for the area covering the Chigwell, Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar Districts continued to function. The Association assists cases awaiting admission to sanatorium in various ways and arranges also for admission of child contacts to convalescent homes. It concerns itself also with the after care of patients by assistance in obtaining materials for occupational therapy and, whenever possible, suitable employment for those fit to work. The Association is supported by voluntary contributions and receives also a grant from the County Council.

The Honorary Secretary is Miss F. Abbott, Chest Clinic, St. Margarets Hospital, Epping.

- (h) DISTRICT NURSES', HEALTH VISITORS', MIDWIVES' SERVICES AND HOME HELP
are provided by the Essex County Council, and administered locally by West Essex Area Health Sub-Committee of the Council.
The Area Medical Officer is Dr. J.A. Slattery, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Moot House Annexe, The Stow, Harlow, from whom the following statistics have been received:-

VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS

<u>1st Visits</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
Under 1 year)..... 868	Under 1 year)..... 2,269
1 - 5 years)	1 - 5 years).....

CASES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES

Number of cases attended	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Visits made by Home Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,605

ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,270
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

ATTENDANCES AT CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Infants under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,935
Children 1-5 years )	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

					<u>Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	3	2	-
Measles	...	...	...	...	7	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	5	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	12	9	-

TUBERCULOSIS

3 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA

No cases were reported during the year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION SCHEMES

(1) SMALLPOX

124 primary vaccinations were performed and 2 persons were re-vaccinated.

(2) D.P.T. (Triple vaccine against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)

223 primary immunisations and 138 boosting doses were given.

(3) DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS

9 primary immunisations, 67 boosting doses were given.

(4) TETANUS

11 immunisations and 5 boosting doses were given during the year.

(5) POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATIONS

Oral Vaccine

Immunising Course of 3 doses ... 224

Fourth (boosting) dose ... 253

(6) MEASLES VACCINATIONS

116 primary vaccinations were performed.

SOME NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS

<u>Disease</u>					<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2	30	1	9	5
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	-	-	2	3	3
Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia			...	...	-	-	-	1	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	64	82	16	419	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	7	4	4	2	2

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the duties of the Department carried out during the year 1968.

Due to resignations the Department was below establishment for three months during the summer. The employment of temporary Meat Inspectors ensured that the meat inspection service was adequately maintained but, unfortunately, other duties of the Department were adversely affected. However, as the Department was only under-establishment for a relatively short period of time the effect was not severe and a considerable amount of useful work was carried out during the year.

I express my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation which the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Franks, and the staff of the Public Health Department have given, without which it would have been impossible to maintain the efficiency of the Department. I would also express my appreciation of the co-operation given by all the Officers and Members of the Council.

P.W. RILEY, M.A.P.H.I.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

During the year 3,271 visits were made as detailed in the following table with the aim of raising the standards of the environment of people who live or work in the area. Requests and complaints totalling 319 were received covering a wide range of subjects.

Not surprisingly, in these complex times, many people contravene public health legislation unwittingly. This ignorance of the law could be avoided if the advice of the Department were sought; certainly advice is requested in many instances but unfortunately not frequently enough. However, when contraventions are found it is the aim of the Department to assist by explaining the reasons behind the law and only to institute proceedings after careful consideration of the circumstances.

Summary

1.	Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
2.	Factories, workplaces, workshops and building sites	...	...						97
3.	Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
4.	Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
5.	Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
6.	Kennels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
7.	Noise	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
8.	Nurseries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
9.	Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
10.	O.S.R. Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
11.	Outworkers...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
12.	Pest Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
13.	Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
14.	Refuse Collection and Disposal...				...	...	...	...	10
15.	Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

2. HOUSING

(a) Council Housing

The number of units of Council housing accommodation at the end of the year was 1,437 which is an increase of 237 on the previous year.

The accommodation comprises:-

Bed/sitting bungalows	... 24	2 bedroom houses	... 379
1 bedroom bungalows	... 49	3 bedroom houses	... 592
1 bedroom flats	... 177	4 bedroom houses	... 30
2 bedroom flats/maisonettes	163	5 bedroom houses	... 3
3 bedroom flats/maisonettes	20		

During the year 171 persons from the housing list and 7 persons from unfit dwellings were re-housed.

At the end of the year there were 193 applicants on the Operative Waiting List and 140 applicants on the Deferred Waiting List.

13 applicants were awarded priority for re-housing on the grounds of ill-health.

(b) Overcrowding

The statutory standard for overcrowding still remains at the abysmal level it has been since 1936. The standard as applied to Local Authorities by the Housing Act 1957 should be aimed for, if this is not possible some improvement should be sought of a standard which permits four adults, seven children under 10 years of age and any number of infants under 1 year of age to occupy a small house with two livingrooms and two bedrooms, each room being only 10 feet by 11 feet. Not surprisingly, although twelve visits were made to investigate alleged overcrowding, in no instance was the statutory standard exceeded.

(c) Houses in Multiple Occupation

During the year 9 visits were made to investigate multiple occupation. In two instances houses were found to be in multiple occupation and deficient in the desired standard. It is required that a house in multiple occupation be satisfactorily provided with natural and artificial lighting, ventilation, water supply, personal washing facilities, drainage and sanitary conveniences, facilities for the storage, preparation and cooking of food, for the disposal of waste water, and the provision for proper means of escape in case of fire in certain circumstances.

In both the above cases the owner elected to reduce the occupation to one family for which the existing facilities were satisfactory and so complied with the Act.

(d) Unfit Houses

During the year one house was found to be unfit for human habitation and a Closing Order was made. Four houses which were subject to Demolition Orders had the time by which they were to be demolished extended in order to allow works of reconstruction to be carried out. The necessary works to one of these houses have now been completed and the house is providing adequate accommodation for the occupants. Works to the other three are proceeding which when completed will result in the provision of three satisfactory units of accommodation.

Four houses in respect of which undertakings to make fit were given have been made fit and a Closing Order in respect of one house has been rescinded upon the house being made fit.

(e) Improvement of Houses

During the year the Council gave four standard grants and 9 discretionary grants totalling £3,191.5.0d. towards the improvement of properties, an

increase of £342.11.8d. on the previous year.

The intention of the Minister to stream line the area improvement procedure is welcomed. The present procedure is cumbersome, long winded and incorporates many failings which could result in the impossibility of forming any satisfactory improvement areas. If our older houses are to be saved from progressive decay and the formation of more twilight areas are to be prevented a rigorous programme of area improvement must be pursued by Local Authorities assisted by uncomplicated legislation to ensure the rapid implementation of successful improvement areas.

3. CARAVANS

There are within the district ten individual residential caravan sites, five multiple residential caravan sites and one holiday site. These sites accommodate 572 caravans.

New conditions have been approved by the Council in respect of caravan sites. These conditions are designed to improve the environment of the caravan occupier to the highest possible practicable standard. They will ultimately ensure that all permanent residential caravans meet the strict structural standards of the British Standard Specification and be provided with all amenities including a wash hand basin, a bath or shower, a sink and a hot water system to supply these fittings, a W.C., a piped water supply and connections to a main drainage system and mains electricity.

The co-operation of the caravan site licensees was readily obtained in the formulation of these conditions and certainly they are already resulting in better conditions for caravan occupiers.

4. FOOD & DRUGS

(a) Meat Inspection

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the area and fifty-six licensed slaughtermen.

All the animals slaughtered during the year with the intention of sale for human consumption were inspected. This was the first year since the advent in 1966 of the Meat Inspection Regulations that it was found possible to maintain a 100% inspection. That this percentage has been attained is due to the diligence of the meat inspection staff and the employment of relief Meat Inspectors. Of the 99,680 animals inspected 17,175 animals were found to be in some way diseased. Obviously to prevent this diseased meat reaching the consumer the efficiency of the Meat Inspector must be maintained at a high level and it is impossible to maintain the required standard if sufficient time is not available. Consequently, the meat inspection service consumes a major proportion of the Department's work.

A high proportion of meat, in particular livers and lungs, is condemned because of disease caused by parasites. It is estimated that parasitic diseases to these organs alone have resulted in a loss locally of £20,000, in addition to this there is also loss of carcase meat due to the reduction in weight gained by an affected animal.

This, of course, is not the full picture of loss which is incurred nationally due to parasitic disease. It is estimated that for each of the four and a half million sheep slaughtered every year in the country 10 lbs. of meat are lost because of internal parasites; parasitic infection reduces the live weight gain of lambs by approximately 27%; parasite-free sheep produce up to 40% more wool than those infested; lungworm disease in cattle costs £3,000,000 annually; many thousands of livers are condemned

annually at a cost of approximately £5,000,000 because of parasite infestation. These losses obviously amount to many millions of pounds every year and the amazing fact is that effective control of parasitic disease can be attained on the farm. Advice is given to farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who also operate a warning system for farmers when heavy parasitic disease is likely to occur. The amount of parasitic disease found upon post mortem examination of food animals in abattoirs in this district has risen considerably during recent times indicating that despite the warnings and advice given by the Ministry not all farmers carried out the necessary precautions with a resultant considerable economic loss to the country.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	Sheep and <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed and inspected:	18,269	2,207	4,535	38,034	36,635
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCA</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned:	1	6	10	6	22
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	8,302	894	18	5,722	2,048
Percentage of animals affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerca:	45.45	40.78	0.62	15.06	5.65

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned:	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	6	0	0	0	109
Percentage of animals affected with tuberculosis:	0.03	0	0	0	0.21

CYSTICERCA ONLY

Whole carcasses condemned:	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	32	0	0	0	0
Percentage of animals affected with cysticerca:	0.17	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

Carcases and Meat Condemned

				Cattle excluding <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	Sheep and <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcasses	...	...	...	1	6	10	6	22
Part carcasses	....	...	...	8	2	0	0	2
Legs	...	...	...	1	0	0	9	70
Shoulders	...	...	...	1	0	0	1	6
Loins	...	...	...	1	0	0	0	5
Sides	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	2
Belly	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	1
Flanks	...	...	...	4	1	0	0	0
Brisket	...	...	...	1	0	0	0	0
Hindquarters	...	...	...	2	1	0	0	0
Forequarters	...	...	...	4	1	0	6	1
Breasts	...	...	...	0	0	0	3	0

Offal Condemned

Heads	...	...	...	72	6	0	0	133
Livers	...	...	...	5,095	751	9	5,678	1,652
Part livers	...	...	...	2,092	27	0	19	0
Hearts	...	...	...	80	6	0	4	153
Lungs	...	...	...	903	86	7	356	591
Kidneys	...	...	...	15	7	5	1	45
Tongues	...	...	...	70	3	0	0	0
Diaphragms	...	...	...	3	1	0	0	0
Hocks	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	7
Tails	...	...	...	10	1	0	0	0
Spleens	...	...	...	31	4	4	356	480
Stomachs and Intestines				2	0	0	0	0
Spinal Column	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	1

(b) Unsound food surrendered or condemned

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1. Meat at slaughterhouses	58	6	11
2. Meat at wholesale premises		1	68
3. Meat at retail shops			34
4. Cooked meat and meat products			20
5. Canned meats			3
6. Fish (fresh)			20
7. Other foods		2	18
	<hr/>		
	TOTAL:	58	10 62
		<hr/> <hr/>	

(c) Food complaints

(1) Complaint alleging a piece of glass in cheese. Investigations revealed that the "glass" was a piece of transparent plastic identical to the plastic price markers used in the shop from where the cheese was purchased. Broken plastic price markers were found to be used to mark foods in the shop. It was agreed with the retailer that only complete price markers be used in order that it would be readily discernible if any portion of a marker were left in any food.

(2) Complaint that a jar of marmalade contained a piece of string. Investigations revealed that the conditions at the place of manufacture were not satisfactory in that certain equipment was temporarily repaired by the use of string. Legal proceedings were instituted against the manufacturer who was fined £10, costs of £6.8.0d. were awarded to the Local Authority. The manufacturer subsequently made arrangements for any equipment requiring repair to be taken out of use until a permanent repair could be effected.

(3) Complaint alleging poor quality of milk. The Analyst reported that the milk was deficient in milk fat and non-fatty milk solids. The producer was found to be using a poor quality animal feed and was advised to contact the Ministry of Agriculture Advisory Service. Subsequent samples taken were reported upon as satisfactory.

(4) Complaint alleging mould growth on pork sausages. The sausages were found to have been on sale for an excessive length of time. A coding system was in operation but carelessness had resulted in the non-withdrawal from sale of these sausages. Legal proceedings were instituted and the retailers fined £10, costs of £6.8.0d. were awarded to the Local Authority.

(5) Complaint of 'worms' in cod. Upon investigation they were found to be the parasite *Filaria Bicolor*. This parasite is a fairly common affliction of cod, the fish becoming infested during its early life in the sea. As this parasite is only visible upon cut surfaces of the fish, is light coloured, only becomes readily visible on cooking and is harmless to man, no further action was taken other than to send a warning letter to the retailer.

(6) Complaint of mouldy apple tart. Upon investigation the tart was found to be fresh but some criticism could be made of the method employed by the baker for cooling confectioneries. The advice given to the baker to prevent a recurrence was accepted and no further action was taken other than a warning letter.

(7) Complaint of discolouration in two cans of chopped ham and pork. Close examination of the cans revealed that the inner coating of the can had become defective probably due to mishandling in transit. The reaction between the exposed metal and the can contents caused the discolouration. Other cans bearing the same code mark were found to be satisfactory. No action other than a warning letter was taken.

(8) Complaint of tainted cream confections. The conditions of manufacture and sale could not be faulted and no reason could be found for any taint in the confections complained of. As they contained fruit it was thought that this may have affected the taste of the cream to the consumer and no further action was taken.

(9) Complaint of maggot in Polish bacon. Due to the conditions of storage in the warehouse and shop and the short period of time that the bacon had been in these premises, it was considered that the bacon was almost certainly contaminated before or during transit. No further action other than a warning letter was taken.

(10) Complaint of mould in wrapped sliced bread. The fault was found to be with the shop-keeper relying upon the person delivering bread to the shop to withdraw old bread. The shop-keeper was advised to use a code mark to ensure that only fresh bread was sold. The advice was acted upon and no further action other than an informal warning was taken.

(11) Complaint of mould on danish blue cheese. It was found upon investigation that the mould was in fact excessive oiliness of the surface of the cheese causing some discolouration. No action was taken.

(12) Complaint alleging tainted fish supplied in a meal. Examination of the fish revealed no evidence of taint to support the complaint. Nevertheless investigations were made at the place of production of the meal and the premises of the fish retailer. Fish that had been cooked at the same time and raw fish of the same batch from which the fish complained of was sold were found to be satisfactory. No further action was taken.

(13) Complaint that 20 lbs. of cod delivered to a local school were decomposed. Examination of the fish revealed that the complaint was justified. Investigations revealed that the fault probably lay with the sub-contractor employed in the processing of the fish before delivery. As the suppliers discontinued their connection with this sub-contractor, no further action other than to send a warning letter was taken.

(d) Food Hygiene

During the year 351 inspections were made of premises where food is manufactured or sold. The object of the visits being to ensure that food is sold from hygienic premises and that the methods of handling the food and the manner in which the food is kept is hygienic. Generally the standard of food premises is rising, no doubt in part due to the consumer becoming more concerned with the cleanliness or otherwise of the premises from which food is purchased. The demands of the consumer for clean food shops is probably the quickest way of raising the standard of hygiene. Several National Surveys have been made on what the consumer requires in a food shop and cleanliness is always a prominent requirement.

Premises registered for the manufacture or sale of preserved foods	10
Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	48
Itinerants registered for the sale of ice cream	14
Itinerants registered for the sale of food	9

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
Premises	Number of Premises	No. of premises complying with Regulation 16	Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	Premises complying with Regulation 19
Butchers	7	7	7	7
Greengrocers	8	8	8	8
Fishmongers	3	3	3	3
Fishfryers	3	3	3	3
Grocers/General Stores etc.	35	35	20	20
Restaurants, Cafes, Public Houses, Canteens	55	55	55	55
Slaughterhouses	3	3	3	3

(e) Ice Cream Sampling

21 samples of ice cream, 2 ice lollies and 1 mousse, were submitted for bacteriological examination. All the samples of ice cream were reported upon as being within the Ministry's Provisional Grade I. One ice lolly was reported as satisfactory and one as unsatisfactory. The mousse was reported upon as satisfactory.

The ice cream manufacturing trade has been strictly controlled for some considerable time, this and the fact that the ice cream manufacturers themselves have had great interest in hygiene has resulted in the industry generally attaining a very high standard of hygiene and the production of a very safe food. The growth of the mobile vendor in recent years resulted in some lowering of the standards attained, but 1968 showed improvement in this aspect of the ice cream trade.

(f) Milk sampling

88 samples of milk, including 56 of raw milk, were obtained in the district for examination, details of which and the results obtained are given in the following table. The results for all the samples obtained indicated that the milk produced and sold in the district is of an excellent quality, but a certain proportion of the general public still seem to be unaware of the dangers associated with drinking raw milk.

<u>Examination</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Brucellosis	50	6
Tuberculosis	15	0
Antibiotics	50	0
Phosphatase Test	22	0
Methylene Blue Test	45	2
U.H.T. Test	5	0
Turbidity Test... ..	5	0
Penicillin Test	3	0

The six unsatisfactory examinations for brucellosis all related to the milk of one producer. At the end of the year investigations were still proceeding and it was expected that a satisfactory conclusion would shortly be arrived at.

The methylene blue test is a test to indicate the keeping quality of milk. Of the two samples reported unsatisfactory in this respect, one was void as the permissible atmospheric shade temperature was exceeded. The other unsatisfactory sample was followed up by further sampling which proved satisfactory and so the unsatisfactory sample was regarded as an isolated occurrence.

(g) Chemical Sampling of Food

Samples of food for chemical analysis are obtained by the Essex County Council. Mr. C.C. Card, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector for the County Council reports as follows.

" During the year 1,563 samples of food and drugs were taken throughout the area administered by the County Council. Of these 774 were milk samples of which 769 were tested in the department's own laboratory.

Of the 748 samples sent to the Public Analyst, 27 were the subject of adverse reports. Proceedings were instituted in five instances.

During visits to retail premises, 2,150 prepacked articles of food were examined by the sampling officers in the course of enforcing the Labelling of Food Order 1953 (as amended) which requires ingredients to be given upon containers.

Of the above-mentioned samples, the following were procured within the urban district of Waltham Holy Cross.

Food and Drugs - not Milk

Biscuits	1
Blancmange Powder	1
Bread	3
Butter	1
Chunky Steak with Gravy	1
Corned Beef	1
Cream	1
Curry Sauce	1
Custard Powder	1
Custard Tart	1
Evaporated Milk	1
Flour (Self Raising)	1
Macaroni	1
Pork Luncheon Sausage	1
Rice	1
Steak & Kidney Pie	1

Food and Drugs - Milk

No. of samples - 19 (Including 9 from Schools)

All samples were satisfactorily reported upon."

5. WATER SUPPLIES

There are in the district 3,674 dwellings of which 3,645 are supplied from public water mains.

The Metropolitan Water Board supply the major part of the district and report on their supplies as follows:-

1. (a) The supply was satisfactory both as to quality and quantity throughout 1968.
- (b) All new and repaired mains are disinfected with chlorine; after a predetermined period of contact the pipes are flushed out and refilled; samples of water are then collected from these treated mains; and the mains are returned to service only after results are found to be satisfactory.

The quality control from these laboratories is carried out by means of daily sampling from sources of supply, from the treatment works or well stations, from the distribution system, and through to the consumer. Any sign of contamination or any other abnormality is immediately investigated.

- (c) (i) The Board has no record of the number of structurally separate dwellings supplied in your area, but the population supplied direct according to the Registrar General's estimates at 30th June 1968, was 13,104.

(ii) No houses were permanently supplied by standpipe.

- (d) No artificial fluoride was added, and where the fluoride content is indicated in the analyses it represents the naturally occurring fluoride in the water.

2. (a) The supply was derived from the following works and pumping stations:-

River Thames (Northern group)
Waltham Abbey Well
Lee Bridge Works.

No new sources of supply were instituted and there were no changes to the general scheme of supply in your area.

The number of samples collected and the bacteriological and chemical analyses of the supply from the above sources after treatment are shown in the following tables.

- (b) On account of their hardness content and alkaline reaction the Board's river and well water supplies are not considered to be plumbo-solvent. It should, however, be appreciated that all types of water pick up varying amounts of metal from the material of water piping particularly when it is newly installed; this applies to copper, zinc, iron and also to lead.

Special tests for lead have been carried out during 1968 on 100 premises where a lead supply pipe is installed. The premises were chosen to give an even distribution of samples throughout the whole of the Board's area. Two samples were collected from each premises; one was the first running of water standing in the lead pipe overnight and the other was a sample of water after running the tap for a few minutes. The results are set out in the accompanying table:-

Lead content of water from main taps
in consumers' premises

Lead content (mg/l Pb)	Samples of water standing in lead pipe overnight	Samples of water after running the tap
Less than 0.01	10	37
0.01	31	57
0.02	21	4
0.03	8	1
0.04	9	0
0.05	5	0
0.06	5	0
0.07	4	1
0.08	1	0
0.09	3	0
0.10	1	0
0.12	1	0
0.16	1	0
	100 premises	100 premises

The above results are very satisfactory and the figures are within the limits of the World Health Organisation European Standards for Drinking Water Quality. This states that the upper limit for lead in running water in the supply should not be more than 0.1 mg/l (Pb); but where water undertakings continue to use lead piping the concentration of lead (asPb) should not exceed 0.3 mg/l after 16 hours contact with the pipes."

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - WATER EXAMINATION DEPARTMENT

Average Results of the Chemical Examination of the water supplied to the Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council during 1968

	Description of the Sample		
	R. Thames-North of River	Lee Bridge	Waltham A
Number of Samples	207	52	4
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.019	0.025	0.170
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.085	0.092	0.040
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.8	3.7	0.2
Oxygen abs. from KMnO_4 , 4 hrs. at 27°C	1.19	1.15	0.18
Hardness (total) CaCO_3	287	316	286
Hardness (non-carbonate) CaCO_3 ...	78	96	76
Magnesium as Mg	5	6	-
Sodium Potassium as Na	23.4	33.5	-
as K	5.2	7.3	-
Chloride as Cl... ..	32	44	27
Phosphate as PO_4	1.9	2.8	-
Silicate as SiO_2	9	10	-
Sulphate as SO_4	62	96	-
Natural Fluoride as F	0.30	0.35	0.75
Surface-active material as ManoxolOT	0.02	0.03	-
Turbidity Units	0.1	0.1	0.5
Colour (Burgess Units)	14	14	8
pH value... ..	8.0	8.1	7.5
Electrical Conductivity (micromhos)	570	670	550

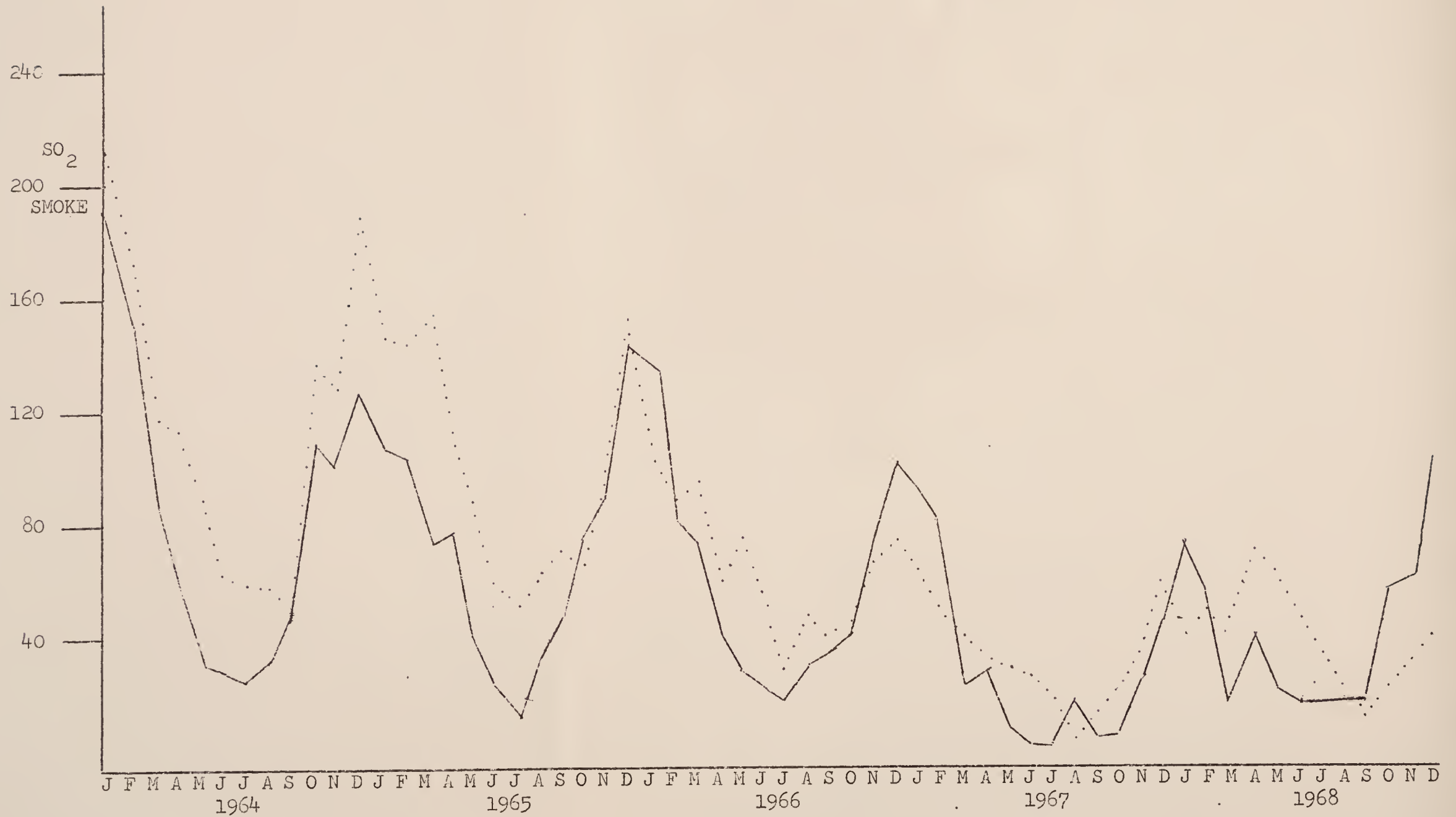
METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD - Water Examination Department

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS - Yearly Averages 1968

The water supplied to the Waltham Holy Cross Urban District Council

Source of Supply	BEFORE TREATMENT							AFTER TREATMENT				
	Number of Samples	Agar plate count per ml.		Coliform count		Escherichia coli count		Number of Samples	Agar plate count per ml.		Coliform count	E. coli count
		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml.	Count per 100 ml.	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml.	Count per 100 ml.		20-24 hours at 37°C	3 days at 22°C	Per cent. samples negative in 100 ml.	Per cent samples negative in 100 ml.
River Thames-Northern								1,720	12.07		99.94	99.94
Lee Bridge								507	21.2		99.41	99.80
Waltham Abbey	245	0.1	6	99.59	-	100.0	-	252	0.0	16	100.0	100.0

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION - MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE



In addition there are six sources of private supply in the district providing water to twenty-nine dwellings. A detailed investigation of all these supplies was carried out during the year and all were found to be very satisfactory. Routine chemical and bacteriological sampling of this water throughout the year indicated that in addition to it being sufficient in quantity, it continued to be satisfactory in quality.

6. SWIMMING POOLS

Routine bacteriological samples taken from the swimming pools at Milton Street School and at Warlies indicated that conditions were satisfactory. The swimming pool at the Kings Oak Public House was again not opened during the year.

7. CLEAN AIR

The Urban District is a participating Authority in the National Survey of air pollution. The results obtained from the sampling apparatus installed in the Public Health Department are illustrated on the graph. This graph readily shows that the level of the atmospheric pollutants smoke and sulphur dioxide have been reduced, confirming the improvement effected by the provisions of the Clean Air Act 1956. Clean air results in a reduction in the incidence of lung cancer and bronchitis, less damage to buildings and materials and improvements in agriculture and horticulture.

During 1968 three further Smoke Control Orders were brought into operation. A total area of 299 acres are now included in the four Smoke Control Areas operative in the district.

During the year four notifications of intention to install furnaces and five notifications of intention to construct new chimneys were received. These notices are required by the Clean Air Act and are designed to enable advice to be given at an early stage to prevent the occurrence of atmospheric pollution. All the furnaces and four of the chimneys were considered to be satisfactory, one chimney was of insufficient height and information given to the applicant resulted in a satisfactory alteration of the proposals.

A smoke nuisance caused by the occupier of a nursery resulted in legal proceedings being taken as advice given to him was ignored. Unfortunately, there are too many occupiers of nurseries using inferior fuels and causing pollution of the atmosphere. There is no excuse for this as smokeless fuels are available which, although being initially more expensive, are more efficient and cheaper in the long term. Offenders who cause nuisance by smoke emission are warned and if the advice given is not taken, legal proceedings are instituted.

A nuisance due to the emission of acid smuts from an oil-fired furnace was alleged. The firm concerned were very co-operative in attempts to cure the emissions. Several improvements were effected until finally the use of a flue gas additive appeared to solve the problem. It is unfortunate in this case that the residential development, from where the complaints emanated, is sited immediately adjacent to the factory boiler-house. It is, of course, impossible to operate a furnace without some emission and it is hoped that the complainants will appreciate this and realise that some emission must be considered reasonable.

8. NOISE

The Noise Abatement Act 1960 enables a Local Authority to deal with noise nuisances. During the year 58 visits were made during the day and night as a result of complaints alleging noise nuisance. It is extremely rare, if at all possible, to eliminate completely the noise complained of and unfortunately although in some cases the noise level has been considerably reduced the complainant will not accept that the noise has been reduced to a reasonable level.

There is a growing opinion that noise is an important aspect of environmental health and in addition to causing nuisance can in certain circumstances physically injure health. It is generally found that industrialists are well aware of the problems of noise both inside and outside the factory and readily co-operate with reasonable requests. Perhaps the general public are not so aware and themselves cause their neighbours considerable nuisance by creating excessive noise such as over-revving engines, playing radios and musical instruments too loud, slamming car doors late at night etc.

9. PETROLEUM

The Petroleum Regulations Acts 1928 and 1936 give power to the Local Authority to ensure the safety of the general public from hazards in connection with petroleum. During the year the Council approved new licensing conditions for petroleum filling stations and stores to provide better control over these establishments. During the year 65 visits were made to petroleum installations and advice given on methods of construction and installation, the rendering safe of dis-used storage tanks and the delivery, handling and sale of petroleum. One petroleum storage tank was found to be leaking, the licence withdrawn and the tank made safe.

Testing of all alterations and new installations during the year was carried out and in all cases the results were satisfactory.

10. PEST CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 places an obligation on the occupiers of lands and premises to notify the Local Authority of infestations of rats or mice. The Local Authority have a duty to ensure that this notification is made and that the occupiers destroy the rats or mice. The Local Authority provide a pest control service which is available to householders free of charge and to occupiers of business premises for a small fee. Contracts are entered into either for the treatment of a single infestation or for periodic inspections and treatment of any infestation which may arise. The annual contract offers a most efficient service as treatments are always carried out at an early stage preventing much subsequent damage which the rats or mice may cause and also covers a variety of pests, including moles, which can cause considerable loss of agricultural produce.

The number of infestations by rats during 1968 was a reduction on 1967 and the sewers were again found to be free from infestation. However, lack of notification of rat infestation still gives cause for concern, 63% of rat infestations found were not reported but discovered during routine inspections. All the infestations were adequately dealt with by the use of Warfarin which is a very efficient poison carrying minimal hazard to man or domestic animals.

An increase in the number of mice infestations has been experienced together with an increased proportion of warfarin resistance, in these cases alphachlorolose has been used with great success except during the summer months, as when the temperature exceeds 65°F the effectiveness of this poison reduces. With the temperatures experienced during 1968 this was not much of a problem but if a warm summer is experienced less efficient and potentially more dangerous poisons will have to be used.

It is very desirable that the department is called upon to deal with any infestation, incorrect treatment can cause hazards to man and domestic animals and result in more serious infestations affecting neighbouring premises.

39 complaints of other pests were received and dealt with during the year including wasps, bees, ants, fleas, bugs, squirrels, moles, insects, beetles and pigeons

11. ANIMAL CARE

a) Diseases of Animals, Waste Foods Order 1957

Premises where plant and equipment is used for boiling of waste food intended for animal feeding provide an important link in the spread of certain animal diseases such as swine fever and foot and mouth disease.

The four such premises within the district are licensed in accordance with the requirements of the above order to ensure that they are operated correctly.

b) Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

The Act provides for proper conditions in such establishments in respect of construction, size of quarters, temperature, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, bedding material, exercise, food and drink, preventing the spread of infection, fire precautions and that a register of animal movements are kept. 8 premises were licensed during the year and 15 inspections were made to ensure compliance with the Act.

c) Pet Animals Act 1951

It is an offence to keep a Pet Shop unless a licence has been granted by the Local Authority. One such shop is licensed subject to conditions in respect of suitable accommodation, food and drink, the age of animals sold, prevention of spread of infectious disease and fire precautions.

12. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The major part of the sewage in the Urban District, with exception of a small area at Sewardstonebury where there is a small treatment works, is conveyed by pumping and gravity through a drainage system terminating at the Greater London Council Pumping Station at Brooker Road from whence it is pumped out of the district to the treatment works Deephams. This system is adequate for the present needs, but with the advent of the Greater London Council building over 2,000 new dwellings, along with the other development taking place in the area, improvements and modifications to the Local Authority's sewers and the building of a new Pumping Station at Brooker Road became necessary.

A scheme to build a new pumping station by the Greater London Council is at present in hand. Other improvements and modifications include the laying of a 21" diameter sewer from Farm Hill Road, junction of Sewardstone Road to Brooker Road junction of Cartersfield Road, and a 30" diameter sewer along Brooker Road to the new pumping station. Work in laying these sewers is now nearing completion.

In addition to properties on main drainage there are 90 premises which discharge into cesspools and 36 premises connected to septic tanks. A quarterly emptying service for the cesspools and an annual one for the septic tanks is carried out by contract for the Council with no charge to the owners of the properties.

13. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Toilet facilities are provided for the public at Larsens Recreation Ground in Farm Hill Road, and in the Greenyard adjacent to the Town Hall. These are both owned by the Council, but by agreement with the brewers, the conveniences at the "Kings Oak" Hotel are available to the public during the summer months. The Council maintain them during this period. At present work is in progress for the construction of new public conveniences adjacent to the "Kings Oak" Hotel to serve the public throughout the year. This will be completed within the very near future.

None of the conveniences has a full time attendant, but daily cleaning and inspection is carried out. Considerable damage occurs to these premises due to vandalism which considerably increases maintenance costs. If the general public were to report damage they observed being caused, the facilities provided for their use would obviously be improved.

14. REFUSE COLLECTION

14 men and 4 vehicles are employed on refuse collection in the district, there also being one vehicle kept as a standby for use when other vehicles are out of commission due to breakdown, servicing etc;

Two of the vehicles in regular use are S & D 35 cubic yard capacity Packamatics, the other two being S & D 18 cubic yard capacity fore and aft tippers.

Collection of refuse is weekly and it is conveyed to a tip in Nazeing which is owned by St. Albans Sand & Gravel Company. Payment for tipping is made to the Company on a cubic yard basis.

15. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

It is the duty of the Local Authority to maintain a register of persons carrying on the business of Scrap Metal Dealers. There are 5 dealers registered in the district who are required to maintain records of dealings.

16. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The Act requires that offices, retail shops, wholesale departments, warehouses, fuel storage depots, catering establishments and canteens be registered if persons are employed. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of employees satisfactory standards have to be maintained in respect of cleanliness; overcrowding; temperature; lighting; ventilation; sanitary conveniences; washing facilities; drinking water; accommodation for clothing; seating arrangements; eating facilities; floors, passages and stairs; fencing and cleaning of machinery; training and supervision of persons operating dangerous machinery; heavy work; first aid; and fire precautions.

At the end of the year 27 offices; 51 retail shops; 6 wholesale departments and warehouses; and 13 catering establishments and canteens were registered. These premises employed a total of 181 males and 286 females. 102 inspections were carried out during the year, an analysis of the contraventions found is given below. The co-operation of the employers was readily obtained in complying with the requirements of the department.

Analysis of Contraventions

Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	15	Eating facilities	...	...	2
Temperature	...	...	...	...	10	Floors, passage & Stairs	...	...	10
Lighting	...	...	...	...	3	First Aid	...	...	16
Sanitary conveniences...	...	...	...	...	10	Other matters	...	...	15
Washing facilities	...	...	...	...	7				

17. FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

The Local Authority are responsible for enforcing satisfactory conditions in respect of cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors and sanitary conveniences in respect of factories where mechanical power is not used and in respect of sanitary conveniences where mechanical power is used.

A total of 78 factories and workplaces, 3 slaughterhouses and 5 sites of building operations were registered. 163 inspections were made resulting in informal action being taken in 3 instances. The minor defects found were all remedied without it being found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

I thank the Treasurer, the Engineer and Surveyor and the Housing Manager for information assisting in the compilation of this report.

P.W. RILEY, M.A.P.H.I.,
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	78	97	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	66	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	86	163	3	Nil

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	by H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or defective	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing Apparel Making etc.	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
No other outwork is carried on in the District						
TOTAL	12	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

